

Remarks

In the office action mailed July 19, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 15-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over various combinations of Kennedy, Rubbmark, Kunihiro, Kravitz, Kirbas, and Maloney. The Examiner further allowed claims 14 and 23. In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 26 and 27, indicating that claims 26 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has now cancelled claims 1, 10, 16, and 19.

Further, Applicant has amended claims 1-13 and 15-22 to depend, respectively, from allowed claims 14 and 23. Consequently, Applicant submits that claims 1-13 and 15-22 are now in condition for allowance as well.

In addition, Applicant has made a very minor revision to allowed claim 23, adding a comma before the final wherein clause. This does not change the substance of the claim. Applicant thus submits the claim remains allowable.

Applicant has also amended claims 26 and 27 to be independent. Namely, Applicant has amended claim 26 to expressly recite the limitations that had been recited in claim 1, and Applicant has amended claim 27 to expressly recite the limitations that had been recited in claim 16. As indicated by the Examiner, these claims should now be allowable.

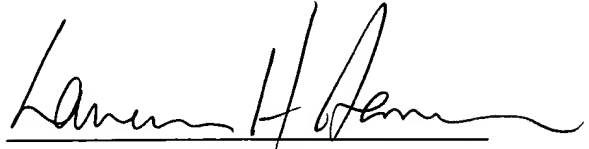
For these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 2-9, 11-15, 17-18, 20-24, and 26-27 are all allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests notice to that effect. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (312) 913-2141.

Respectfully submitted,

**McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF**

Date: September 27, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence H. Aaronson", written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence H. Aaronson
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